

REMARKS

In the above referenced Office Action, the Examiner divided the claims into the following groups:

- I. Claims 24-29, 32-36 and 46, drawn to a planarizing pad; and
- II. Claims 37-45, drawn to a method for planarizing a microelectronic device.

In addition, the Examiner required an election of species from the following groups:

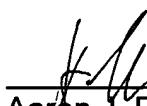
1. Species I: Planarizing pad with optical ports;
2. Species II: Planarizing pad with contour elements; and
3. Species III: Planarizing pad with conductive features.

In response, the applicants elect Group I, Species 1, claims 24-29, without traverse. Non-elected claims 37-45 have been cancelled without prejudice to pursuing these claims in a continuation, divisional, continuation-in-part or other application. Claims 32-36 and 46 have been withdrawn. Upon allowance of a generic claim, applicants request reconsideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or which otherwise include all the limitations of the allowed generic claims. The foregoing election is made with the understanding that the Examiner and the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office are now bound to the finding of non-obviousness between each of the species.

No fees are believed due with this communication. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized and requested to charge any deficiency in fees herein to Deposit Account No. 50-0665.

Respectfully submitted,
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